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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 00646 161614Z

53
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /132 W
---------- 083238
R 161510Z APR 74
FM USMISSION BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3250
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS
CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGG-OCO
USELMLO
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 646

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB. UR, GE
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF U. S. PATROL VEHICLE IN EAST BERLIN

1. U. S. ARMY VEHICLE ON ROUTINE EAST BERLIN PATROL APRIL 12 WAS BLOCKED FRONT AND REAR BY SOVIET ARMY TRUCK AND BUS AT APPROXIMATELY 1830 LOCAL WHILE PROCEEDING WEST ALONG DEWET ALLEE (COORDINATES UV 006 167) IN SOVIET RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD. SOVIET OFFICERS DISMOUNTED FROM VEHICLES, APPROACHED PATROL CAR, ASCERTAINED THAT PATROL MEMBERS SPOKE NO RUSSIAN OR GERMAN, AND GESTURED THAT PATROL HAD VIOLATED MILITARY MISSION RESTRICTION SIGN (LOCATED SOME TEN METERS FROM POINT OF DETENTION). PATROL'S REQUEST TO BE RELEASED WAS IGNORED. APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES AFTER DETENTION, CIVILIAN VEHICLE ARRIVED ON SCENE BEARING EAST GERMAN ENLISTED MAN AND INDIVIDUAL IN CIVILIAN
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 00646 161614Z

CLOTHES WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS SOVIET MAJOR. ENLISTED

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MAN, ACTING AS INTERPRETER FOR MAJOR, TOLD
PATROL THEY HAD VILATED MILITARY MISSION RESTRICTION
SIGN AND ASKED TO SEE IDENTIFICATION CARDS. PATROL
COMPLIED, BUT THEIR FURTHER REQUEST TO BE RELEASED
WAS IGNORED. SOVIET MAJOR, THROUGH INTERPRETER, THEN
REQUESTED THAT PIECE OF PAPER BEARING REGISTRATION
NUMBERS OF BLOCKING VEHICLES BE HANDED OVER, WHICH
PATROL, ON RADIOED INSTRUCTIONS, DECLINED TO DO.
PATROL WAS THEN INFORMED THAT SOVIET GARRISON COMMANDANT
WAS COMING TO SCENE AND THAT FORMAL PROTEST WOULD
BE LODGED WITH U. S. COMMANDANT. AGAIN ON RADIOED
INSTRUCTIONS, PATROL DECLARED TO SOVIETS THAT U.S.
PERSONNEL HAD ACCESS TO ALL BERLIN AND SHOULD
ACCORDINGLY BE RELEASED. FINALLY, AT ABOUT 1945,
SENIOR SOVIET OFFICER, WHO HAD TEMPORARILY LEFT AREA,
RETURNED AND GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SOVIET MAJOR.
LATTER, THROUGH INTERPRETER, SAID THAT SOVIET COMMANDANT
WAS UNABLE TO COME AND WARNED PATROL NEVER AGAIN
TO VIOLATE MISSION RESTRICTION SIGNS. PATROL WAS
THEN RELEASED.

2. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER PROTESTED DETENTION
TO SOVIET COUNTERPART ROMANOVSKIY APRIL 15 AS UNJUSTIFIED
VIOLATION OF PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE OF FREE MOVEMENT
OF ALL ALLIED (AND SOVIET) PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT BERLIN.
PROTOCOL OFFICER POINTED OUT, IN ADDITION, THAT
MEMBERS OF ALLIED COMMANDS IN WESTERN SECTORS COULD NOT
BE PLACED IN SAME CATEGORY AS MEMBERS OF MILITARY
LIAISON MISSIONS AND COULD NOT THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED
AS SUBJECT TO MISSION RESTRICTION SIGNS. ROMANOVSKIY,
AS IS CUSTOM, DECLARED THAT HE COULD ACCEPT PROTEST
"FOR INFORMATION ONLY," AND SAID THAT SOVIETS REGARDED
ALL ALLIED VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL--NOT JUST THOSE OF
LIAISON MISSIONS--AS BEING SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION
SIGNS. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER REJECTED THIS
ASSERTION.

3. EARLIER ON APRIL 12, ANOTHER PATROL VEHICLE WAS
DETAINED FOR 11 MINUTES BY CIVILIAN CAR(SIMILAR TO
THAT INVOLVED IN LATER INCIDENT) IN VICINITY HEADQUARTERS
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 00646 161614Z

EAST GERMAN BORDER COMMAND CENTER (COORDINATES VU 009 169).
OCCUPANTS OF CAR, AN EAST GERMAN SOLDIER AND MAN
IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WHO APPARENTLY SPOKE RUSSIAN,
MAY WELL HAVE BEEN SAME INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN
LATER INCIDENT DESCRIBED PARA 1.

4. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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